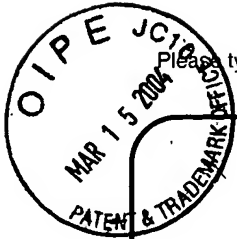


03-16-04

HDP/SB/21 based on PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/735,305
	Filing Date	December 11, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Strecko Zdravkovic
	Group Art Unit	not yet assigned
	Examiner Name	not yet assigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number 0275M-000786

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form 1449; copies of 2 foreign references; 3 other documents; and return postcard.
Remarks The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2550. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name	Monte L. Falcoff	Reg. No.	37,617
Signature					
Date	March 15, 2004				

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.			
Typed or printed name	Monte L. Falcoff	Express Mail Label No.	EV 406 074 722 US (3/15/2004)
Signature		Date	March 15, 2004

EV 406 074 722 US



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/735,305
Filing Date: December 11, 2003
Applicant: Strecko Zdravkovic
Group Art Unit: not yet assigned
Examiner: not yet assigned
Title: Self-Piercing Fastening System
Attorney Docket: 0275M-000786

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. ____ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cross-referenced pending U.S. application listed below in Section IV, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ____ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. X Because the present application was filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D. ____ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. If the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. X Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. ____ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ____ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application.
2. ____ English translations are provided.
3. ____ Other:

C. X The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration. The following references appear to be somewhat more relevant than the others cited. Notwithstanding, the Examiner is requested to review all of the cited references and make his/her own relevancy determination. U.S. Patent Nos. 6,502,008 (Mauer); 5,502,884 (Ladouceur); 5,533,250 (Ladouceur); 5,237,733 (Ladouceur); 4,713,872 (Muller); 4,802,803 (Muller); and 4,911,592 (Muller).

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. X The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Art Unit</u>
10/300,317	November 20, 2002	2125
09/862,688	May 22, 2001	3726

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3. ☒ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4. ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
2. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ☐ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ____ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F. R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. ____ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ____ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

____ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ____ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. ____ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2550 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination,

to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

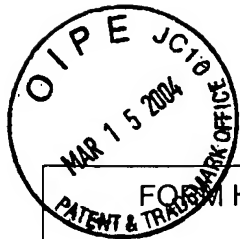
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 15, 2004

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
MLF/csd

By: 
Monte L. Falcoff, Reg. No. 37,617



FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 5

ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL No.
0275M-000786	10/735,305
APPLICANT	
Strecko Zdravkovic	
FILING DATE	GROUP
December 11, 2003	not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		RE35619	10/1997	Muller		
2.		2002/0172573	11/2002	Pamer et al.		
3.		2003/0101566	6/2003	Ladouceur		
4.		2001/0001166	5/2001	Ladouceur et al.		
5.		1,500,021	7/1924	Wilson		
6.		3,281,171	10/1966	Hughes		
7.		3,942,235	3/1976	Goodsmith et al.		
8.		3,946,478	3/1976	Goodsmith et al.		
9.		3,961,408	6/1976	Goodsmith et al.		
10.		3,969,808	7/1976	Goodsmith et al.		
11.		3,969,809	7/1976	Pouch et al.		
12.		3,971,116	7/1976	Goodsmith et al.		
13.		4,124,050	11/1978	Ackerman		
14.		4,242,793	1/1981	Matthews et al.		
15.		4,338,694	7/1982	Steward et al.		
16.		4,348,796	9/1982	Smallegan		
17.		4,370,794	2/1983	Bien et al.		
18.		4,442,584	4/1984	Smallegan		
19.		4,476,599	10/1984	Steward et al.		
20.		4,484,385	11/1984	Woods		
21.		4,505,416	3/1985	Smallegan		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

**PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 2 of 5

ATTORNEY DOCKET No.

0275M-000786

SERIAL No.

10/735,305

APPLICANT

Strecko Zdravkovic

FILING DATE

December 11, 2003

GROUP

not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
22.		4,532,664	8/1985	Steward et al.		
23.		4,555,838	12/1985	Muller		
24.		4,574,453	3/1986	Sawdon		
25.		4,610,072	9/1986	Muller		
26.		4,630,363	12/1986	Woods		
27.		4,633,560	1/1987	Muller		
28.		4,642,869	2/1987	Muller		
29.		4,649,753	3/1987	Goodsmith		
30.		4,653,970	3/1987	Ballantyne		
31.		4,679,690	7/1987	Steward et al.		
32.		4,690,599	9/1987	Shinjo		
33.		4,700,470	10/1987	Muller		
34.		4,711,021	12/1987	Muller		
35.		4,713,872	12/1987	Muller		
36.		4,724,610	2/1988	Muller		
37.		4,727,646	3/1988	Muller		
38.		4,729,163	3/1988	Muller et al.		
39.		4,765,057	8/1988	Muller		
40.		4,802,803	2/1989	Muller		
41.		4,810,143	3/1989	Muller		

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<p>FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)</p> <p>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p> <p>Sheet 3 of 5</p>	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL No.
	0275M-000786	10/735,305
	APPLICANT	
	Strecko Zdravkovic	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	December 11, 2003	not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
42.		4,825,527	5/1989	Ladouceur		
43.		4,831,698	5/1989	Muller		
44.		4,893,394	1/1990	Muller		
45.		4,911,592	3/1990	Muller		
46.		4,915,558	4/1990	Muller		
47.		5,020,950	6/1991	Ladouceur		
48.		5,056,207	10/1991	Ladouceur		
49.		5,067,224	11/1991	Muller		
50.		5,072,518	12/1991	Scott		
51.		5,092,724	3/1992	Muller		
52.		5,140,735	8/1992	Ladouceur		
53.		5,146,672	9/1992	Muller		
54.		5,172,467	12/1992	Muller		
55.		5,174,018	12/1992	Muller		
56.		5,207,588	5/1993	Ladouceur et al.		
57.		5,208,963	5/1993	Ladouceur		
58.		5,237,733	8/1993	Ladouceur et al.		
59.		5,239,740	8/1993	Ladouceur		
60.		5,340,251	8/1994	Takahashi et al.		
61.		5,441,417	8/1995	Ladouceur et al.		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<p>FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)</p> <p>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p> <p>Sheet 4 of 5</p>	ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL No.
	0275M-000786	10/735,305
	APPLICANT	
	Strecko Zdravkovic	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	December 11, 2003	not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
62.		5,445,483	8/1995	Fultz		
63.		5,487,215	1/1996	Ladouceur		
64.		5,502,884	4/1996	Ladouceur		
65.		5,502,888	4/1996	Takahashi et al.		
66.		5,531,552	7/1996	Takahashi et al.		
67.		5,533,250	7/1996	Ladouceur		
68.		5,549,430	8/1996	Takahashi et al.		
69.		5,560,094	10/1996	Ladouceur et al.		
70.		5,564,873	10/1996	Ladouceur et al.		
71.		5,617,652	4/1997	Muller		
72.		5,644,830	7/1997	Ladouceur et al.		
73.		5,673,472	10/1997	Muller		
74.		5,722,139	3/1998	Ladouceur et al.		
75.		6,220,804	4/2001	Pamer et al.		
76.		6,263,560	7/2001	Edwards		
77.		6,276,050	8/2001	Mauer et al.		
78.		6,325,584	12/2001	Marko et al.		
79.		6,502,008	12/2002	Maurer et al.		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<p>FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)</p> <p>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p> <p>Sheet 5 of 5</p>	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
	0275M-000786	10/735,305
	APPLICANT	
	Strecko Zdravkovic	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	December 11, 2003	not yet assigned

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes No	
1.		GB 2069088	2/1981	United Kingdom			
2.		WO 02/073045	9/2002	PCT			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		brochure by Pierce Fastening Technology entitled "Pierce Fasteners: The fasteners DESIGNED FOR FLEXIBILITY"; 14 pages; (published prior to November 21, 2003).
2.		KAPtifast brochure for KAPti-nut entitled "High Strength Captive Nuts for Sheet Metal". (published prior to November 21, 2003).
3.		"Perma-Nut Inserts for Thin Materials"; 2 pages (published prior to November 21, 2003).

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.